

SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 14, 2020

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 West Corsicana St., Athens, Texas, This meeting was open to the public; however, seating was limited to maintain social distancing.

with the following members present to-wit:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor
Ed McCain, Mayor Pro Tem
Toni Clay
Aaron Smith
Robert Gross

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Blake Armstrong, City Attorney

Staff Present: Buddy Hill, Chief of Police; Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services; Russell Marshall, Fire Chief; Paul Crayton, Assistant Fire Chief; Mandie Quigg, Director of Finance; Tim Perry, Public Works Director; Derek Whiteley, Director of Information Technology; Randy Williams, Utilities Director; Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator; Joanie Ahlers, Economic Development Director

others present: Mark Carroll.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Montgomery.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

DISCUSS FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, explained several department directors will present Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal year 2021.

Tim Perry, Public Works Director, presented the re-construction plans for City Hall parking lot.

There was discussion regarding the removal of trees. Councilwoman Clay stated she would like for staff to meet with an arborist prior to any trees being removed. There were questions being answered throughout the presentation.

Ms. Borstad explained the engineering estimated a project cost of \$70,500 which is included in Fund 30 and contingent upon the scope of work.

Mr. Perry also provided an update on improvements for Cain Park softball field restroom facility and concession stand. Mr. Perry stated the existing building is old and outdated. He stated Trinity Valley Community College indicated they would contribute some air conditioning units at no cost for this update and Fretress Engineering has donated his time to design the new restroom facility. He stated discussion is ongoing with Fretress Engineering.

Russell Marshall, Fire Chief, provided an update on Station 1 remodel.

He presented fiscal year 2020 proposed capital improvements for Athens Fire/Rescue:

PROJECT	STATION(S)	COST
Kitchen & Office Remodel	2	\$20,000
Cascade System	2	\$36,000
Bay Enclosures	1 & 2	\$11,600
Overhead Doors	1 & 2	\$41,000
PPE Lockers	2	\$6,000
	TOTAL	\$114,600

There was discussion and questions being answered throughout the presentation.

Chief Marshall stated that Councilmember McCain asked that staff prepare a three (3) year improvement plan for Athens Fire/Rescue. He stated additional time is needed to research, evaluate, review, and prepare this plan. He stated in the near future a plan will be needed to create privacy in the bedroom area of both stations.

Councilmember McCain stated he did ask Chief to prioritize and present a plan. He stated the safety of the team is number one along with the Citizens. He stated if there is an issue with a door this could cause an issue. He stated there is an improvement need at Station 2. He stated the three-year plan allows for the prioritization of needs and what is not done this year will carry over to the next year.

Discussion occurred.

Buddy Hill, Chief of Police, stated during the current budget year the police department completed Phase 1 of improvements. It consisted of four (4) offices being updated and improved. He stated that staff is beginning with Phase 2 and this will consist of six (6) offices four (4) restrooms and one (1) copy room for improvements. He asked the City Council for continuation of the \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2021 for rehabilitation improvements to the Police Department.

Chief Hill stated in the current budget year (2020) funds for six (6) vehicles were budgeted, however, they were not purchased. He stated the Police Department will need vehicles purchased in the FY 2021 Budget. He stated the emergency equipment, radars, camera system, and prisoner containment system are included in the cost.

Councilmember Smith asked the cost of vehicles. Chief Hill provided the following cost:

- Car - \$35,000
- Car with equipment - \$68,000
- Four (4) Patrol Cars - \$248,000
- Eight (8) Patrol Cars - \$500,000

Chief Hill stated \$56,000 is budgeted for radios. He provided the following update for Athens Police Department Radio Project:

- Console/Dispatch Equipment - \$350,000 (estimated)
- Portable Radio Equipment - \$118,125 (quoted) 37 total radios – 12 previously purchased
- Mobile Radio Equipment - \$197,250 (quoted) none purchased

Discussion occurred.

The City Council recessed at 11:10 a.m.

The City Council reconvened in Special Session at 11:18 a.m.

DISCUSS FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR ALL FUNDS

Ms. Borstad explained that Staff will provide a Utilities update after the water rate study is received. She stated the Utility five (5) year plan is included.

Ms. Borstad stated a summary of the General Fund is provided for Council's review.

Mandie Quigg, Director of Finance, presented a summary of the General Fund and Summarized Detailed Revenues and Tax Rate Analysis. Ms. Quigg explained for preliminary budget purposes the presentation includes a one cent tax rate reduction in the General Fund.

There was discussion regarding the collection rate that should be budgeted for the upcoming budget. It was collectively determined that a collection rate of 96.5% should be conservatively budgeted for ad valorem collections.

Throughout the presentation there were questions from the City Council that were answered.

There was discussion regarding the following:

- Reduction of the tax rate at a minimum one cent
- Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) on the retirement percentages for TMRS

After much discussion it was the consensus of the City Council to reduce the tax rate at a minimum of one cent and to keep the COLA at 30% for retirement percentages for TMRS.

The General Fund budget includes an estimated amount for sales tax collection based on a 5% reduction from the projected FY 2020 budget.

The City Council recessed at 11:46 a.m.

The Council reconvened in Special Session at 11:52 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING); TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

- a) CHIEF OF POLICE**

The City Council convened in Executive Session at 11:52 a.m.

The City Council returned to Regular Session at 1:11 p.m.

CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING); TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

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No action was taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27th DAY OF JULY 2020.

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Ed McCain, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary